REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed November 30, 2004, the Examiner noted that claims 1-24 were pending, that claims 2, 6, 9, 13, 16 and 20 have been withdrawn from consideration, objected to claim 8 and rejected claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 10-12, 14, 15, 17-19 and 21-24. Claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18 and 22-24 have been amended, claims 3, 10 and 17 have been canceled, and, thus, in view of the forgoing claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19 and 21-24 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's [ejections and objections are traversed below.

In the Office Action the Examiner objected to claim 8 and claim 8 has been amended in consideration of the Examiners concerns. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

In the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 10-12, 14, 15, 17-19 and 21-24 under 35 U.S.C. section 112 paragraph 2 as indefinite. The claims have been amended in consideration of the Examiner's comments and it is submitted they satisfy the requirements of the statute. If additional concerns with the claims arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone to resolve the same. Suggestions by the Examiner are also welcome. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1, 5, 15 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Takeda. Page 4 of the Office Action rejects claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 10-12, 14, 15, 17-19 and 21-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Ching and Takeda.

Takeda discusses a system in which notes added to a document are captured and stored in association with the document.

Ching is directed to a system that allows a purchaser to track purchases using a purchase receipt that may include hand written notes using a computer system of the purchaser. The seller prints out the receipt. The receipt is scanned and decoded transaction data is stored in a database on the purchaser's computer. The entire image of the receipt can also be stored with the image indexed to the transaction data decoded from the receipt and stored in the database.

In contrast, the present invention not only allows a note added to a document to be stored (the difference between the document with and without the note), but also performs "character recognition" on the note (see S5 of application figure 2) and stores the "recognition result" or "recognized character" with note and the document. The prior art of Takeda and Ching does not teach or suggest such.

It is submitted that the invention of independent claims distinguishes over the prior art and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The dependent claims depend from the above-discussed independent claims and are patentable over the prior art for the reasons discussed above. The dependent claims also recite additional features not taught or suggested by the prior art. For example, claim 5 allows the document as well as the recognition result to be electronically searched. The prior art does not teach or suggest such. It is submitted that the dependent claims are independently patentable over the prior art.

It is submitted that the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112. It is further submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.
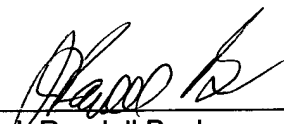
Respectfully submitted,

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